bank robberies/dacoities/looting of remittances have taken place in the country during the period from 1-7-89 to 31-12-89. In these incidents a total amount of Rs. 84.90 lakhs is reported to be involved besides some gold ornaments.

(b) As per information furnished by the RBI, 11 incidents of bank robberies/dacoities have taken place in the State of Punjab during the period from 1-7-89 to 31-12-89 involving a total amount of Rs. 13.92 lakhs.

(c) Bank robberies/dacoities to a considerable extent depend on the general security environment in the locality. Banks, however, have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements so as to offer as little scope as possible to miscreants to rob banks and also to deter them. As this is a continuous process, security measures implemented by public sector banks are being reviewed from time to time and whenever further improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/instructions are given to the banks. Depending on the risk factor involved, steps have been taken to appoint security guards, instal appropriate alarm systems, etc. in branches. Further, in order to motivate bank employees, the general public and the police to resist robbers/dacoits, a scheme for giving rewards and compensation is in operation.

In the State of Punjab, special efforts have been made to strengthen banks security by deploying paramilitary forces both for static guard as well as for escort of cash remittances. Besides, linkage of bank branches with currency chests have been rationalised. The security problems are also being reviewed in periodical meetings of State Level Security Committee.

Promotion of Tourism

348. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are Government's plans with regard to promotion of tourism in the country;

(b) what special efforts have been made to attract tourists from abroad in the recent past;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop the infrastructural facilities at all places of tourist interest; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU); (a) to (d) The Government is making every effort to promote tourism in the country. Efforts in this direction are being made by developing infrastructure and by marketing and publicity campaigns. The development of infrastructure is the responsibility both of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government are giving liberal concessions for setting up of additional accommodation units. Tourism Finance Corporation of India has also been set up to finance tourism related projects. Within their scheme, and subject to availability of funds, the Ministry would continue to render financial assistance for development of infrastructure.

Economy in expenditure in Central Government Departments

349. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to effect economy in ex-